

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 6-18 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 2-4 and 16 have been withdrawn from consideration and new Claims 17 and 18 have been added. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate all features of Claim 5. Claim 5 has been canceled, accordingly.

Support for new Claim 17 can be found on, for example, page 31 of the specification, second and third full paragraphs, whereas support for new Claim 18 can be found on, for example, page 2, second full paragraph. No new matter has been introduced and entry of the amendments is respectfully requested.

A. Rejection of Claims 1, 5-12 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1, 5-12 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Japanese Patent Application No. JP 07-168293 to Kudo et al. ("Kudo"). Applicants respectfully traverse.

The subject matter of Kudo is distinct from that of the present invention. Kudo relates to a silver halide photosensitive material, more specifically a film having a magnetic recording layer, while the present invention relates to an ink jet recording medium.

A silver-salt photosensitive material is implemented as negative films for photography in the so-called "APS system." It is known that, in the photography using silver-salt photosensitive materials, the shooting conditions are magnetically recorded. The recording on the magnetic recording layer is conducted with a magnetic head, and the photosensitive material is not assumed to be used for ink jet recording.

The term "ink jet recording medium" of the claims of the present application results in a structural difference between the claimed invention and the Kudo which relates silver halide

photosensitive materials. For example, a silver halide photographic photosensitive material taught by Kudo comprises a support, a photosensitive silver halide emulsion layer on at least one surface of the support, at least one transparent magnetic layer formed on the at least one side of the photosensitive material, and at least one metal oxide layer, wherein the metal oxide layer comprises a surfactant and a binder. The magnetic layer of a silver halide photographic photosensitive material contains a magnetic material, and usually assumed a dark color. In contrast, as described in the background section of the present application, whiteness is required in the field of ink jet recording materials to which the present invention belongs.

Furthermore, the structure of Kudo's silver halide photographic photosensitive material is not capable of performing ink jet recording. For example, it is nonsensical to conduct ink jet recording on a magnetic recording layer of a reel of APS film contained in a cartridge.

Accordingly, the photosensitive material of Kudo does not meet all limitations of the claims of the present application. Therefore, it is believed that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 is not sustainable and it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

B. Rejections to Claims 1, 6-9 and 11-14 under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and 103(a)

Claims 1, 6, 8, 9 and 11-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,797,347 to Chow *et al.* ("Chow"). Claims 1, 6-9 and 11-14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being obvious from Chow. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Before presenting argument, Applicants would like to point out that the Office Action contains an error in indicating Chow as a reference under section 102(b). As Chow's publication date is September 28, 2005, which is later than the filing date of the present application, it should

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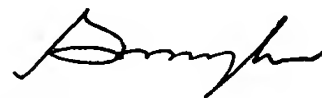
not be a section 102(b) reference. Applicants request the Office Action to clarify it in a next Action.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate all features of Claim 5, which was not included in the rejection. It is believed that the amendment render the rejection of Claims 1, 6-9 and 11-14 moot and it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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